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REVIEWS

FINNUR JÓNSSON: *ISLANDSKE LÆSESTYKKER MED FORKLARINGER OG ORDSAMLING*. I. Udgivne af Dansk-Islandsk Samfund. Copenhagen, 1918. pp. 59.

FINNUR JÓNSSON: *DET ISLANDSKE SPROGS HISTORIE. I KORT OMRIDS*. I. Copenhagen, 1918, pp. 24.

There are undoubtedly many who will welcome just such brief elementary handbooks for the study of modern Icelandic as the two pamphlets listed above. Professor Jónsson published an introductory grammar in 1905, with which the present *Læsestykker* may serve very well as a reader. It has been prepared especially with a view to students in Denmark (with some translations from H. C. Andersen), but may of course be used for self-study by anyone. Among the selections there is one from Thóroddson's description of Iceland (*Lýsing Islands*), one from Benedict Gröndal (from the magazine, *Gefn*) and one from Jónas Hallgrímsson (*Grasferðin*). There are foot notes and a vocabulary. A second number is to follow.

The *Historie* presents in concise form the fundamentals in the development of the Icelandic language from the period of settlement down to the present. It is interesting to observe how in Iceland they have been able to preserve the language pure even during the last thirty years in the face of the influx of so many new things, and with them so many new ideas and activities. Such early adoptions elsewhere as *sekretær* and *bibliotek* are in Iceland of course *ritari* and *bokasafn*. They could, to be sure, not keep out such words as *te*, *kaffi*, *sykur* and *tóbak*, but I think that well-nigh exhausts the loans. "Theatre" is not *teater*, but *leikhus*, and "comedy" is *gamanleikur*, as "tragedy" is *sorgarleikur*. The word "sport" is not used (I am glad to see that it is never used) but always the good word *íþrótt*. And *cykel* is not heard; one says *reidhjól*, and the corresponding verb is *hjóla*.

GEORGE T. FLOW

Urbana, June 1.